

I AM THE VOLUNTEER

By Karen K. Anderson

I am the 18 year old who stands watch on the wall.
I am the firefighter who dodges flame to save your child.
I am the hotline rep who soothes your fears.
I am the volunteer.

I am the shelter guide who gives you safe haven.
I am the advocate who accompanies you to court.
I am the hospice worker who gently leads you out of this life.
I am the volunteer.

I am the meal deliverer who brings you daily sustenance.
I am the guardian helper who keeps you safe.
I am the errand runner, the card player, the friendly visitor.
I'm the guy who builds your wheelchair ramp
And gives you access to the world.
I am the librarian who opens up that world through books.
I am the volunteer.

I am the one whose voice you hear,
When no one else will call.
I am the one who cares for you
In ways, both large and small.
I am the one who is your friend,
Your neighbor, your confidant, and helper.
I am the volunteer.

I work ordinary, daily miracles—
One simple life at a time.
I am the one who listens, smiles, dries tears, holds hands,
Quenches thirst, calms the heart
And gives you peace.
I make the difference.
I am YOUR volunteer.